

b. providing instant powerful acceleration by operator depression of the throttle pedal to provide electric propulsion while in the cruise mode when the speed of the vehicle is dropping.

56. (Amended) A method of operating a hybrid motor vehicle having electric motor and internal combustion engine power comprising:

a. operating the internal combustion engine within a small range of speeds about its most efficient operating speed from a power and pollutant output standpoint; and,

b. utilizing the internal combustion engine to charge a nickel cadmium fast charge-discharge battery when the internal combustion engine is not employed to drive the motor vehicle.

57. (Amended) In the method of operating a hybrid motor vehicle having internal combustion engine power and electric motor power in the cruise mode and when cruise mode conditions are not satisfied:

a. utilizing the internal combustion engine power in [the] said cruise mode and utilizing the electric motor power primarily when conditions for said cruise mode [operations] conditions are not satisfied, the cruise mode occurring when rapidly shifting power and speed demands are not occurring.

60. (Amended) A method of operating a hybrid motor vehicle having an electric motor and an internal combustion engine operable in the cruise mode comprising:

controlling operation of the hybrid vehicle in [the] said cruise mode including controlling the operation of the electric motor and internal combustion engine in response to vehicle operating parameters.